

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A system for positioning an implant, said system comprising:

a holding element for holding an implant, said holding element including:

a first end having a grip₁ [;]

a second end having a connecting element for establishing a connection to the implant₁ [;] and

an elongated intermediate portion extending between the first and second ends; and

a guiding sleeve for guiding the holding element, said guiding sleeve having an entry opening and an exit opening, and defining a guiding area between the openings for guiding the elongated intermediate portion of the holding element,

wherein the holding element is removably introduceable into the guiding sleeve, and

wherein the holding element is configured to be translated ~~and rotated~~ within the guiding sleeve, and

wherein a tensioning device is provided proximate the first end, the tensioning device being configured to move axially the holding element after an implant has been connected to the second end of the holding element so as to move the implant into abutment with an adjacent end of the guiding sleeve and place the elongated intermediate portion under tension.

2. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the guiding sleeve is made of a rigid material.

3. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the guiding sleeve includes at least one curved section.

4. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a navigation element fixed to the guiding sleeve, the navigation element having markers that are trackable by a navigation system.

5. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a sliding element connected to a navigation element, said sliding element slidably engaging the guiding sleeve.

6. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein one end of the guiding sleeve includes an end area which tapers conically outward or inward.

7. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 6, wherein the guiding sleeve includes a rotational block at the conically tapered end area.

8. (original) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the connecting element of the holding element comprises an outer thread.

9. (original) The system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the holding element includes a flexible area which can be guided in the guiding sleeve.

10. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ~~holding element includes a grip and an outer thread onto which~~ the tensioning device includes a nut that is screwed onto the holding element, which nut is operable to engage an adjacent end of the guiding sleeve opposite the end that is engaged by the implant.

11. (currently amended) The system as set forth in claim 8, ~~wherein~~ further comprising the implant that includes a connecting element for establishing a connection to the connecting element of the holding element.

12. (original) The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the connecting element of the implant is an inner thread.

13. (previously presented) The system as set forth in claim 11, wherein the implant includes a conically tapered section adjacent the connecting element.

14. (currently amended) In a system for positioning an implant, said system having a holding element for holding an implant, a guiding sleeve comprising:

a first rim defining an entry opening and a second rim defining an exit opening, and having a guiding area between said openings for guiding the holding element, wherein the holding element is removably introduceable into the guiding sleeve, and

wherein the guiding sleeve is configured to support a holding element that is translatable and rotatable within the guiding sleeve; and

a navigation element coupled to an outer portion of the guiding sleeve, the navigation element having markers that are trackable by a navigation system.

15 - 28 (cancelled).